



NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee

July 19, 2021

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee One of the Most Productive Federal District Courts in America

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee (“TNWD”), with court facilities in Jackson and Memphis, Tennessee, once again ranked in the top ten of America’s most productive federal district courts. The Administrative Office of the U. S. District Courts just released its ranking of the most productive of America’s federal district Courts. TNWD ranked 5th of 94 federal district courts in America for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. TNWD ranked 6th of 94 federal district courts for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. Of 94 federal district courts in America, TNWD was one of only four district courts that ranked in the top ten for both 2019 and 2020.

TNWD has always ranked at the top of all federal district courts in the number of completed trials per Judge per year. Consistent with this level of performance, TNWD ranked 1st in the nation regarding “Hours on the Bench” for both 2019 and 2020. This ranking indicates that the Court performed in an outstanding manner throughout both 2019 and 2020, which included the first seven months of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Unlike many federal districts, TNWD never closed its operation. In mid-March 2020, the Court vacated its court facilities in compliance with recommendations and guidance from national and local public health agencies, but the Court immediately switched from onsite in-person proceedings to online digital video or telephonic court proceedings, which allowed the Court to more-or-less maintain its regular flow of case dispositions. Instead of cutting back or eliminating staff functions, the entire Court maximized telework operations by utilizing the remote electronics that had been procured, installed, and tested as part of its COOP or continuity of operations plan several years earlier. Court staff had been using this equipment from offsite locations as part of their mandatory telework training and testing, so when the Pandemic hit, the switch from onsite office work to offsite work was basically seamless. The result of this preparation, training, and testing, which included Judges, chambers staff, and all other court staff was that the Court maintained its pre-Pandemic pace of work, which in turn resulted in the above productivity rankings for the past two years.